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**ELLIS
GUILFORD
SCHOOL**
*Creative
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Friday, 14th May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Face masks

Following the government's announcement this week regarding the use of face masks in schools, I write to inform you that from Monday, 17th May 2021 face masks will no longer be expected to be worn, by both staff and pupils both in the classroom and communal areas also, such as corridors and outside spaces.

It is important, however, we remain vigilant at all times and therefore we will continue to support appropriate social distancing in classrooms and the 'bubbles' for each year group as well as staggered start times.

I know that a number of parents/carers may want their children to continue to wear masks. The school will continue to support this. Ellis Guilford School will also distribute masks to children, as we have throughout the last few months.

It is important to also note a small number of pupils have tested positive recently and we continue to follow Public Health England advice in these instances.

It is equally important, however, to provide parents/carers/pupils with a choice and I know you will make the decision that you believe is in the best interests for your child.

For information, the direct guidance from the DfE is provided below:

'As part of the government's move to Step 3 of the roadmap, from Monday 17 May, new advice applies to the use of face coverings by staff, pupils and students in schools and further education in England. Our guidance on face coverings has been updated to reflect these changes.

'Face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils and students in classrooms or communal areas, in all schools and FE providers. Face coverings will also no longer be recommended for staff in classrooms. In all schools and



FE providers, we continue to recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside of classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas).

'The reintroduction of face coverings for pupils, students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern. In all cases, any educational drawbacks should be balanced with the benefits of managing transmission. The Local Action Committee structure (Bronze/Silver/Gold) should be used in such circumstances to re-introduce the use of face coverings. Immediate outbreak response (at the level of individual settings or a cluster of settings) remains for local Directors of Public Health to advise on.'

Yours sincerely,

Mr Chris Keen
Principal